Bishop C.H. Mason, Founder 1907

# THE WHOLE TRUTH

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

"The law of truth was in his mouth and iniquity was not found in his mouth." Mal. 2:6. "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32.

VOLUME XXIX, NO. XI | C.O.G.I.C. HEADQUARTERS, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE | DECEMBER, 1993

# 86TH ONE FOR THE BOOK

PHOTO BY ERNEST C. WITHERS

*HAIL TO THE CHIEF!*

Memphis, TN. November 9-15, 1993. The Holy Convocation convened for the 86th time in Memphis, Tennessee and the saints enjoyed a convention classified as one for the record book. Not only was the attendance larger than ever, new congregations and even whole ministries were united with the organization, and of course the convention's delegates witnessed a visit by a sitting president. President Bill Clinton visited the saints and spoke passionately about the plight of America and the necessary response of the Church to moral issues of social importance.

The theme for this convocation reflected the saints desire to project our sincere purpose to a needy world. "The World's Greatest Need: Return to God's Word - The Holy Bible," proved inspirational and worthy of every delegates appreciation. It was apparent the convocation was going to be a unique spiritual event. The pre-convention prayer vigil was conducted by the National Prayer Team at the Church of the Founder: Temple COGIC. That local congregation entertained delegates in the prayer vigil from around the country. The prayer proved to be meaningful and sweet to the soul.

The morning of November 15th, hundreds gathered upon their knees in Mason Temple. The National Prayer Team gave the prayer service into the hands of those in charge. The leadership of the Church, in the persons of Bishop Louis Henry Ford and members of the General Board of Bishops were there to receive the prayer. The praise was sobering and holy, and the entire temple was ignited with the power of God. After the prayer the delegates heard from the leadership. Each bishop spoke with real warmth and spirit. The convocation has historically been a time of revival and vital renewal, it seems that our fellowship engenders more of the same yearly, and the 86th Convocation gave every indication of anoth-

*Continued on page 3*

# PRESIDENT CLINTON VISITS

*President Clinton and Bishop Ford enjoy a serene moment during the worship service.*

Presiding Bishop Louis Henry Ford stood before a packed sanctuary of pastors and missionaries, then recollected a story about the late founder, Bishop Charles H. Mason. One of Bishop Mason's dreams was to host a president of these United States in Mason Temple during a Holy Convocation. The founder is gone to rest but one of his sons, Presiding Bishop Ford has brought the dream to pass. Saturday, November 13, 1993, President Bill Clinton addressed the saints in Mason Temple. His visit in part fulfilled Bishop Mason's dream but more significantly focused upon the current needs of this generation.

The venerable leader of the Church introduced the president as "my friend and your friend" and the saints readily concurred. Amid the magnificence of Mason Temple, the splendor of fellowship, accented by the sounds of Dr. Vernard Johnson's saxophone and the singing of Sister Sara Jordan Powell, Mr. Clinton stood before nearly 6,000 happy delegates and another 20,000 who looked on via big screen closed circuit television. The applause was thunderous and the greeting genuine. This was the second visit Mr. Clinton made to a Holy Convocation. He attended once before while a candidate for the presidency.

Mr. Clinton's voice was clear and he energized the moment with words of compassion, challenge and meaning. With ease President Clinton addressed the leaders of the Church and gave warmest greetings to old comrades; the two resident bishops of Arkansas, Bishops Walker and Lindsey. "I am glad to be here. You have touched my heart and brought tears to my eyes and joy to my spirit", said Mr. Clinton. He reflected about the visit the Church Of God In Christ bishops made to Little Rock to lay a marker in tribute at the place where C.H. Mason received the name for his fledgling organization. He spoke of the various congregations he visited during his presidential campaign. Bishop P.A. Brooks announced to his large Detroit based congregation that Mr. Clinton would be our next president. Certainly, Mr. Clinton was among friends.

Not only were the saints in attendance but Tennessee governor, Mr. Ned McWherter, Congressman Harold Ford and Mayor W.W.

*Continued on page 3*

# THE WHOLE TRUTH

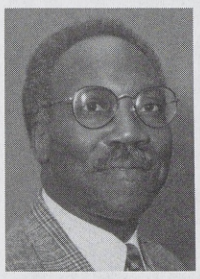
## PHOTO OF THE MONTH

PHOTO BY ERNEST C> WITHERS

*Bishops Ford and Owens show President Clinton and Governor McWherter the grounds at Mason Temple.*

## LEXINGTON RE-VISITED: LEGEND AND LEGACY

### LEONARD LOVETT, PH.D



September 1993 was momentous for the Church Of God In Christ. Almost unnoticed by the national media and press the Church re-opened its only private school located at the foothills of the vast Mississippi delta, Lexington. One can readily sense that an event of this magnitude required enormous energy, planning and vision.

Lexington is not only legendary but encompasses our historic legacy. Our humble beginnings in a converted cotton gin is legendary as Bishop Charles Harrison Mason founded what was to become in God's providence the largest African American Pentecostal body in the world.

Over thirty years ago, in the month of September, I entered Saints Junior College to study at the feet of one of America's greatest educators, Dr. Arenia Cornelius Mallory, a protege' and friend of the renowned Dr. Mary Mcleod Bethune, the founder of Bethune Cookman College in Daytona Beach Florida, who launched that institution with fifty cents in her pocket and a faith that could not be defeated. As a lad of sev-

*Continued on page 3*


## THE WHOLE TRUTH

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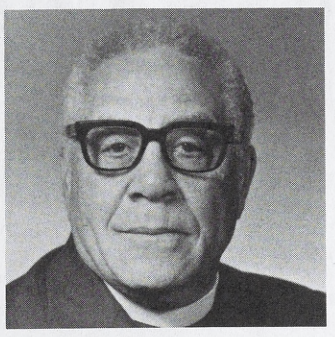
Office of the Presiding Bishop



Dear Saints:

Holy greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

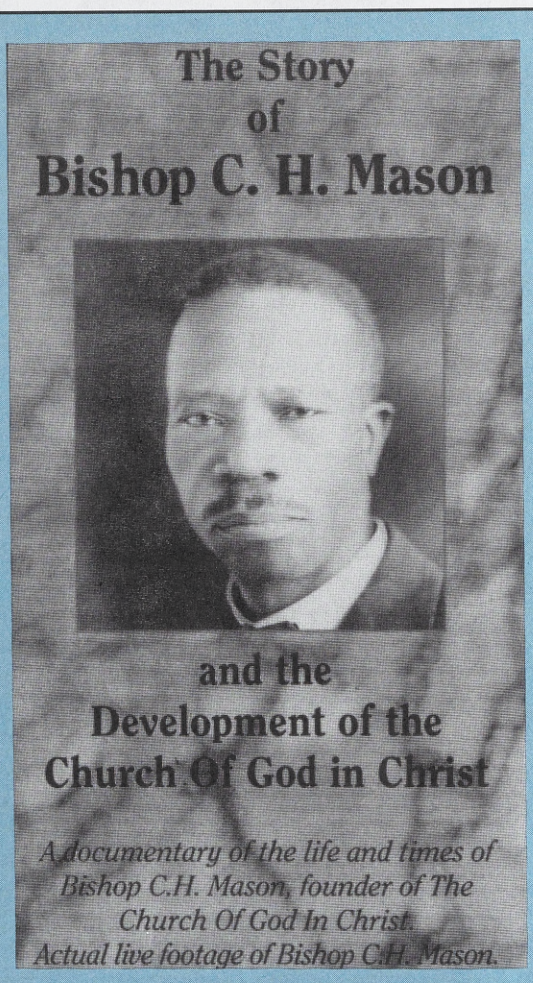
I take this means to thank you for your prayerful support and participation in helping to make our recent Holy Convocation a success. I know that those who attended returned home with renewed spirits to do a greater work for the Lord.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior, let us remember that He came as the gift of salvation to man. We, too, can offer gifts to our fellowman by feeding the hungry, clothing the naked and showing love to those who are despondent. Therefore, I admonish you to spread love, joy and peace during this blessed season.

It is my prayer that you and your loved ones will enjoy abundant blessings during this season.

Sincerely in Christ,

L. H. Ford
Presiding Bishop
Church Of God In Christ, Inc.


## NOW AVAILABLE! C.H. MASON VIDEO

Did you experience the power and ministry of Bishop C.H. Mason? Clearly 90% of the current saints alive today did not witness our founder. Now on video is the story of C.H. Mason. See and hear him sing, pray, dance in the spirit and more. Tape cost $29.95 plus $5.00 shipping.

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## 86TH ONE FOR THE BOOK

*Continued from page 1*

er season of revival. Certainly, Bishop C.D. Owens, First Assistant Presiding Bishop, Bishop C.L. Anderson, Second Assistant Presiding Bishop, Bishop J.N. Haynes, Bishop C.E. Blake, Bishop L.R. Anderson, Bishop P.A. Brooks, Bishop Roy L.H. Winbush, Bishop Ithiel Clemmons, Bishop O.T. Jones, Jr., Bishop L.W. Willis and Bishop G.E. Patterson were received with great anticipation. It was Bishop C.E. Blake who reached out and touched the masses as he recounted the near fatal shooting of his son. His painful recollections gave witness that the all powerful God whom we serve is able to do the miraculous. His testimony gave way to praise and glory to God.

The convocation was accented by a series of profound and deeply meaningful sermons. The program committee brought before the saints a mixture of new and experienced speakers. Those blessed to address the saints were Elder Dennis Martin, Bishop Albert Jordan, Elder Rance Allen, Elder Oscar Benton, Elder Levi Willis, Jr., Dr. Felton Smith, Elder F.L. Mitchell, Bishop William James, Dr. R.L. Asberry, Elder McLendon Winbush, Dr. Mattie McGlothen, Supervisor Martha Willis, Elder Ronald Houston, Elder Brandon Porter, Bishop C.L. Bryant and Bishop O.T. Jones, Jr. Each speaker brought their own special flavor to the convention and God graced their spoken word with His presence. Both day and night the worship services were anointed and God blessed the delegates.

Something must be stated about Dr. Mattie Clark and the national choir. Truly, Dr. Clark is a tried and proven soldier. After surgery and illness she has battled back for one more Holy Convocation and continued her directed activities with the national choir from her wheel chair. Everything was excellent as usual. The Church Of God In Christ is blessed with the very best musical talent. Dr. Clark must be given credit for much of that talent's development.

On Saturday morning, President Bill Clinton visited the Holy Convocation and became the first sitting president to ever step into Mason Temple. The National Headquarters Sanctuary was filled to capacity with thousands of saints, noted political officials, dignitaries and well wishers. That morning the eyes of the nation, if not the entire world were fastened upon the Church Of God In Christ. The president was received warmly and he spoke meaningful words to the convention delegates.

Sunday was "Founders Day" and the Cook Convention Center was again filled and over flowing. Thousands more attended than available seats could be found. The supervisors, bishops, general board members and the entire delegation waited to hear the preached word of Presiding Bishop Louis H. Ford. Bishop Ford is a leader of vision and purpose, he of course wanted to do more than simply preach, therefore he took his time reiterating the principles for the ministry and building program with much care. So much has been accomplished during his leadership and now his goal is to perpetuate the effort. He was careful to have the official offering raised before he spoke. His goal was to get enough money to carry the expanded budget for the national headquarters operations and to undergird the newly reopened Saints Academy. The saints responded well but did not reach the desired mark of 2 million dollars.

When the Monday worship was completed, Bishop C.D. Owens made a special appeal for additional funds. The Founders Day offering fell short of the 2 million dollars requested. The General Board of Bishops assisted Bishop Owens in appealing for pledges to increase the funds. The Board of Bishops under the leadership of Bishop J.H. Sherman led the way with solid contributions and pledges. Presiding Bishop Ford asked that all pledges be paid by December 31, 1993.

The entire week of worship services called the saints back to the commitment found in the theme: "The World's Greatest Need: Return To God's Word - The Holy Bible." People were saved and filled with the spirit. Miracles were recorded and lives were changed as a direct result of experiencing God's word. The 86th Holy Convocation left an indelible mark on the saints who travelled from foreign shores and 50 states in the union. If the Lord delays His expected return, the 87th Holy Convocation will be celebrated.

## PRESIDENT CLINTON VISITS

*Continued from page 1*

Herenton of Memphis. Other congressmen, notable personalities and civic persons were on hand to greet the president. The setting in Mason Temple proved to be a comfortable place for his compassionate but challenging statement before friends.

President Clinton asked the saints to think about our common efforts. Those issues of unemployment, family, crime, etc., are basic to the concerns of every constituency. He cited his record in appointing minorities and especially the appointments of five African Americans in cabinet level positions. He informed the saints that noted improvements in the economy, passage of a family leave bill, radical reform in the college loan program, tax decreases, the proposed health care policies make his presidency positive and productive. He clearly spoke to all of America as he lifted up his desire to produce more American goods and sale more of the same abroad. He encouraged the passage of the North American Trading Act.

Mr. Clinton progressed to possibly his most important point of his delivery, when he used the termed "great crisis of the spirit." All of America is aware we share in the common hope to grapple with the problems of crime, violence and drugs. The president spoke of Dr. Martin Luther King, who gave his last address from the pulpit of Mason Temple. Mr. Clinton raised the question of what would Dr. King say about our progress and our failures. Against the backdrop of present day ills, the president brought it home, that African Americans have accomplished a lot but violence, drug abuse, poor education etc. are stealing the blessing away. Mr. Clinton must have known his audience is very aware and sensitive to each of those issues. If any audience is sensitive to the crisis of the spirit, that congregation was. The saints of the Church Of God In Christ are deeply concerned about the shifting moral values and, about this country's lack of moral responsibility to address those problems and more.

When the president finished his remarks the saints applauded his statement with great enthusiasm. He left the building reaching for hands and acknowledging the smiling faces that truly appreciated his being there.

## BISHOP MASON VIDEO RELEASED

*Bishop Norman Quick describes video of Bishop Mason.*

The hottest video released in years is currently available for saints, historians and people generally interested in the life story of Bishop Charles Harrison Mason. Bishop Norman Quick, president of the Publishing Board promoted the video during the 86th Holy Convocation.

It is thought that nearly 90% of our current membership never witnessed the ministry and preaching of C.H. Mason. Now for the first time you can see and hear Bishop Mason sing, shout, dance in the spirit and lay hands of the people. This video is actual footage of Dad Mason.

Order today from the Church Of God In Christ Bookstore. Show this video at home, work or church. Meet the man, Charles H. Mason and experience why God selected him to found and lead the Church Of God In Christ.

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## COGIC CALENDAR YEAR 1994

ANNUAL BISHOP'S CONFERENCE
January 11-14, 1994
West Palm Beach, Florida

ANNUAL PASTORS/ELDERS CONFERENCE
March 7-11, 1994
St. Louis, Missouri

APRIL CALL MEETING
April 5-7, 1994
Memphis, Tennessee

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CONVENTION
May 17-22, 1994
San Diego, California

EVANGELIST AND MISSIONS CONFERENCE
June 13-18, 1994
Tampa, Florida

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONGRESS
July 4-11, 1994
Louisville, Kentucky

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION
July 18-23, 1994
Houston, Texas

INTERNATIONAL MUSIC CONVENTION
July 25-29, 1994
Detroit, Michigan

ANNUAL FOUNDER'S WEEK CELEBRATION
September 6-9, 1994
Lexington, Mississippi

ANNUAL HOLY CONVOCATION
November 8-15, 1994
Memphis, Tennessee

## LEXINGTON RE-VISITED

*Continued from page 2*

enteen from Pompano Beach Florida, I was mesmerized by the words emblazoned on the walls of Faith Hall, "find a way or make one." Since that time bridging the span of years we have endured a wilderness wandering and sojourn. During our sojourn of the last twenty years several significant accomplishments, e.g. founding of the first fully accredited Pentecostal seminary in North America during the Patterson years of leadership. We developed new constitutional prerogatives in order to implement the mandates of the General Assembly.

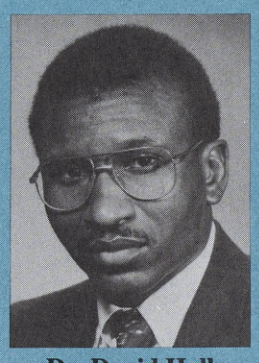
With the election of Bishop Louis Henry Ford as International Presiding Bishop, our wilderness sojourn ended as the Church begins its journey toward the 'land of promise' in God's new future. The words inscribed beneath or Presiding Bishop's photo on the program insert of the July 6, 1993 Inaugural Dinner telegraphs the heart of Bishop Ford's vision. NO MAN STOOD SO TALL AS WHEN HE STOOPED TO HELP A CHILD AND HUMANITY. Working against all possible odds, we succeeded in re-opening Saints Academy and College. Not only did it re- open, it was done with real class. The campus now reflects a quiet dignity and elegant splendor, the result of wise planning and vision. Bishop Ford's philosophy is communicated in his passionate love for children, spirit of hospitality, and his unique leadership style calling the Church back to its spiritual roots.

Let's face it, 'something is better than noting', that fact alone should silence the critics. As a graduate, it is difficult for me to be objective. My perspective is biased to my nostalgia and sentimentality for Lexington, it is a part of my history. For many of us Saints Academy should have never been closed. However, that is history and cannot be reversed. May we together build upon our rich legacy that has a foundation. Lexington, the legendary place of our origins is now the place where we have started again.

* Dr. Leonard Lovett, founding pioneering Dean Emeritus of the C.H. Mason Theological Seminary Atlanta Georgia is currently finalizing a three year teaching stint at Oral Roberts School of Theology and World Missions as Professor of Theology and Ethics and special lecturer on Urban Ministry. He is currently columnist for Ministries Today, on the Black Perspective. His first major book, Opening the Front Door of Your Church, is scheduled for release November 1 by Pneuma Life Publishing Co. of Bakersfield, California.

# THE WHOLE TRUTH

## EDITORIAL
## THE CRISIS OF THE SPIRIT



**Dr. David Hall**

Saturday, November 13, 1993, will always be a significant day in the history of the Church Of God In Christ. Simply because President Bill Clinton made a visit and stood behind the sacred pulpit of Mason Temple, it shall be remembered. Mason Temple was recently added to the historic register of Tennessee and has been designated an American historic site. Of course, it is the edifice that C.H. Mason built and in recent history, the place where Dr. Martin Luther King gave his famous Mountain Top speech. Now added to the list is Clinton's "Crisis of the Spirit."

Is this why Presiding Bishop Ford wanted Mr. Clinton to visit? No! The current president made his first visit to the Holy Convocation as a candidate for the presidency. He was granted a cordial reception and presented an opportunity to speak before a delegation of saints from around America. The saints liked what they saw in the youthful, intellectual and charismatic Clinton. His message was sincere, philosophically neither conservative nor radical; it offered hope and change.

Upon his return to Memphis he came as a different man. Now he is president. The saints were honored to have him visit the convention. He offered compassionate words and practical challenges on issues of moral consequence needing Christian responses. His challenges sought to create an opportunity for the moral power of the Church to respond realistically to the crisis within our Black community and the nation in general. He really brought nothing new, nor any alternative vision, still his words were healthy and strengthening. He spoke words of integrity to the people of faith. He did challenge the Church to do basically what we are striving to do already, something we want in spite of some governmental policies and judicial deliberations. The Church Of God In Christ is neither ego nor ethnocentric but we desire to make what the president said possible, we too desire to "keep the faith with our common efforts as all Americans should." We demand righteous and moral foundations in decision making processes, and this does not make us apolitical or out of touch with the real world.

During this visit President Clinton said the right things. I was glad he reminded us about violence, crime, unemployment, trade and having the will to resolve "the crisis of the spirit." By no means were those expressions mere rhetoric. We live and deal with those issues daily. I believe the president was genuine. I appreciate him for that and applauded his courage to speak before us not in a condescending matter but recognizing us as useful, thoughtful and intelligent people with something to contribute. However, Mr. Clinton did forget or found it politically prudent not to mention the crises of the spirit such as gays in the military, his pro abortionist stand and other matters which suggest that politics not righteousness, is the nature of his agenda. I raised a personal question and asked myself should I consider his remarks less genuine because he did not address moral, politically sensitive issues? I think time will give me an answer.

In the beginning of his remarks Mr. Clinton mused concerning something his grandmother said about his possibilities of being a preacher. "I believe you could be a preacher if you were a little better boy," said his grandmother. I believe that God ordained the election of Mr. Clinton and as long as his presidential pursuit is honorable and not reduced to more political rhetoric, he has our support and prayers.

He is the president and not a preacher. Hopefully, he will continue to hear the voices of the prophets of this age. Persons like Presiding Bishop Louis Ford, whose agenda is expanding hope and pushing others to respond about the larger moral issues of life. Hopefully, he will see and understand the Church Of God In Christ as a vital urban source of ministry and life changing reality. Our current programs of reopening Saints Academy and College, or the homeless shelter in Memphis which will serve as a training center fit for replication elsewhere, are clear examples of this prophetic ministry.

Mr. Clinton please keep listening to our collective voice and hopefully together we can implement philosophies, programs and commit resources to solve some of our Crisis of the Spirit.

## TESTIMONY OF HEALING

I have a very important testimony that I want everybody to know about, God is still performing miracles. March of 93, my daughter came to me and stated that, she needed some eye glasses, and that her eye sight was getting bad. On March 6th we went to the eye doctor, who referred us to a Neurologist, who in turn sent us to have x-rays from the neck up. The x-rays showed a tumor located right between both eyes. The doctor said she needed surgery right away to save her eye sight. On April 6th 1993 she was admitted to University Hospital in Newark, NJ. While preparing her for the operation, they found that she was 8 weeks pregnant. The surgeon decided she should have an abortion because the medicine they would use to put her to sleep might endanger the baby. God sent another team of doctors that said they could give her something that would not harm the baby, so the pregnancy was allowed to continue.

She had the surgery on April 8th, the doctor went under her lip to the back of her right nostril until they reached the tumor between the eyes. The doctors stated that the operation was a success. She got her eye sight back and the pregnancy continued. But in August 1993, 5 months later, she went completely blind. The pleas went out for the saints of God everywhere to pray, some went on a fast for Sister Crystal Steed.

On September 17, the doctors again operated this time through the left nostril for six hours.

During the surgery Crystal swallowed so much blood it went into her lungs and cut off her breathe. She had to be placed on the respirator for 6 days to save her life. God was standing by and gave her another miracle in her life.

On the 12th of September, the doctors decided to take the baby, a boy, 4 lbs. 2 oz. normal, healthy and in good condition.

God has given Crystal so many miracles during this trying time that she decided to name the baby Miracle, because once again she can see. Crystal is saved, sanctified and filled with the precious Holy Ghost. If you take care of God's business he will take care of yours.

Please pray for Crystal, she is now taking treatments so she will always have her sight and be able to raise her own baby.

Praise God!
From her mother, Sis, Rachel Williams

## FROM LEXINGTON TO THE WHITE HOUSE

*Bishop Miller congratulates Raymond C. Pierce.*

Raymond C. Pierce, member of Williams Temple Church Of God In Christ in Cleveland, Ohio, has been appointed by President Clinton to be Deputy Assistant Secretary of Education for Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Education. In his new job, Brother Pierce is charged with enforcing laws that prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, gender, disability or age.

Brother Pierce is the great-grandson of Plummer Austin, who along with his father-in-law, donated the lumber to build the original church (St. Paul COGIC) in Lexington, Mississippi. Brother Pierce's great grandparents, Plummer and Sarah Austin were both charter members of the Church Of God In Christ. Bro. Pierce's grandfather, George Austin, affectionately known as "Professor Austin", served St. Paul Church Of God In Christ as Sunday School Superintendent for over 30 years. Professor Austin was a model teacher in both Carroll and Holmes Counties for more than 50 years. His final teaching years were spent with Saints Academy. Brother Pierce's mother, Kathleen Austin Pierce, was a member of the scholarship committee at Williams Temple and upon retiring, returned to Mississippi where she served as a Sunday School Teacher at St. Pauls until her passing in 1991. Certainly this rich heritage has been a positive influence on Brother Pierce's life.

Raymond is a graduate of Syracuse University and Case Western Reserve University's Law School. He also directed CWRU'S Minority Scholars Program, which is designed to increase minority student retention at the University and encourage minority students to go to graduate school.

Raymond, 34, was a Corporate Attorney and Supervisor of Corporate Affairs at LTV Steel Corporation. He also served as chairman of the Cleveland NAACP's Education Committee. He is also known in Washington as a charter member of the Congressional Black Caucus Education Committee. He co- chaired that committee's litigation task force.

Before joining LTV Steel in 1986, Brother Pierce worked as a Civil Rights Attorney for the John W. Walker Law Firm in Little Rock, Ark., where he often ran into Bill Clinton, who lived across the street from him.

Inspite of his very busy schedule, Brother Pierce found time to be a faithful Sunday School teacher in his local church. His dedication and example has been a great source of inspiration to the young men in his Sunday School class.

Brother Pierce and his wife Diane have a four year old son, Zachary. His pastor, Bishop Warren E. Miller speaks highly of Brother Pierce as a true role model for our young men. It goes without saying that the entire Church Of God In Christ is Godly proud and supportive of Brother Pierce as he takes on this new challenge.

# GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA SITE OF NINETEENTH STATE WOMEN'S CONVENTION OF CENTRAL FLORIDA THIRD JURISDICTION

**MOTHER ELIZABETH G. CROOMS**
**STATE SUPERVISOR**

The 19th State Women's Convention of the Central Florida 3rd Jurisdiction was held September 23-25, 1993 at the Williams Temple Church Of God In Christ, Gainesville, Florida, where the official hosts were, Dr. Detroit R. Williams, Pastor and District Superintendent and Missionary Mercedes Reese, District Supervisor.

This was an historical event in that it was the first held under the leadership of our newly appointed State Supervisor, Mother Elizabeth G. Crooms of Jacksonville, Florida having succeeded Mother Susie C. Johnson is now Supervisor Emeritus.

The theme for the convention: "Holy Women Building On A Sure Foundation and Preserving the Landmarks". The convention was spiritual, exciting and exhilarating; the worship services and evening workshops echoed the theme throughout the extent of the convention. The staff of women

*Mother Elizabeth G. Crooms*

united and demonstrated what joy can be experienced through faith, prayer and devout effort. Missionary C.B. Kinsey, Convention Marshall and our Bishop's wife, spared no effort in making certain that the directives of the convention were appropriately carried out. From night one and through closing, the crowd was in attendance! The men graced the convention in great numbers supporting and encouraging the women.

Opening night, the evening message was brought by Mother Bernice Donnell, the State Supervisor of the Western Florida Jurisdiction in Tampa, Florida. Oh how the saints praised God for the spoken word. Thursday night was State Supervisor's night. Mother Crooms brought forth a dynamic, soul searching message. She spoke from the subject, "Holy Women Seeking God Through Prayer". As the message went forth and the anointing escalated, thunderous praises to God rang out all over the crowd.

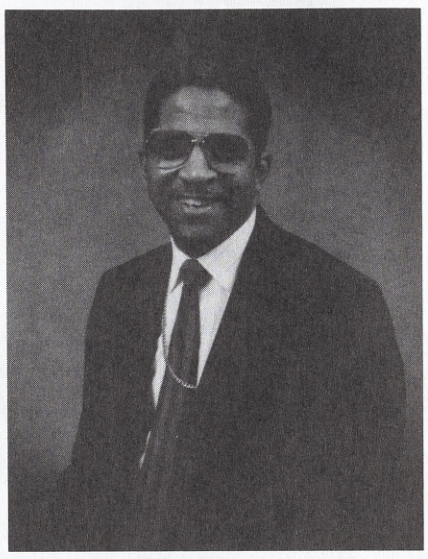
Friday night was the closing night. Standing room only. Bishop C.D. Kinsey, Jurisdictional Prelate, brought the message of the evening. The spirit of the Lord engulfed the place. Bishop Kinsey commended the women for a job well done and encouraged continued unity and invoked the audience to stay with the Word and encourage the saints to persevere in praises to God in spite of what the circumstances may appear to be. Each night the various district choirs from across the State participated joyfully in the services. The delegates left the convention with uplifted spirits and renewed desires...to God be the glory!

A special debt of gratitude is due to the Williams Temple Family as well s the Gainesville District at large. They worked diligently to make sure that a warm and comfortable atmosphere prevail during the convention.

We are looking forward to greater accomplishments in "kingdom work" as we latch onto the vision of our leaders and rely on God to keep us under his protective wings. Continue to pray for our State Mother who has so humbly accepted the challenge.

Missionary Alfredia B. Days, PRES.
Mother Elizabeth G. Crooms, State Supvr.
Bishop C.D. Kinsey, Jurisdictional Prelate

# A GREAT TENT REVIVAL TO BE IN HONOLULU HAWAII



Bishop F.E. Perry will be in a tent revival in Honolulu, Hawaii, December 6 to December 10, 1993 at Richardson Field, Pearl Harbor Naval Base.

This is a historical event for the Churches Of God In Christ in Hawaii as the first tent revival.

Local talent and other churches will be in attendance with the saints praising the Lord. It is our endeavor to evangelize the islands and the Pacific rim.

God has promised healing, deliverance, forgiveness and all his manifold blessings for those that attend the revival.

by
Elder Juanito H.N. Rodriguez

# DISTRICT MEETING PURITY NIGHT

*BY LATISHA ATKINS*

In days like these we need a Savior. Not only do we need a Savior, but we need someone to look up too. As the youth of today and the Church of tomorrow we need to be strong and stick together, we are all we have. Drugs, weapons, and violence have taken control. To get rid of these problems we need the more of Jesus. Second we need training and support from the home. Third, we need to come together and cast out Satan and his army of angels.

Jesus is the one for us. When I say us, I mean me too. The Lord can get you out of any situation if you just believe and serve him. The Bible states that if you have the faith of a mustard seed, you can receive what you shall ask. Philippians 4:6 says, "Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. Also in Matthew 6:6 it says, "When thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret, and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." You don't only have to pray at church, but also pray at home, school, work, where ever you are. When you pray don't beg God because He demands faith. Although He may not come when you want Him, but He's right on time. We as young people today need to pray because we have a greater chance of getting shot or killed. Pray before you leave, pray while your going, and pray when you get there. Truly, prayer changes things.

Now what you need to do to get to Jesus is pull away from all the things of the world. You must separate yourself from others. I know people are going to talk about you. They will talk regardless. II Corinthians 6:17 says, "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and I will receive you." It's more important to be accepted by Christ, than by your friends. Cause your friends can't send you to heaven, only Christ can. If you don't obey God and keep his commandments you will go to hell. The Lord will say depart from me. You will be cast into a lake of fire and burn forever. For the wages of sin is death and the gift of God is eternal life.

PLEASE!!! WAKE UP BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!!!

# PRECIOUS IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD IS THE DEATH OF HIS SAINTS

**"A WORK WELL DONE, A SOLDIER GONE HOME!"**

*Evangelist Elizabeth Moore*

God in His infinite wisdom has called from labor to reward one of his precious and beloved Saints, Evangelist Elizabeth Moore. While there are things we don't understand, without warning He quietly chose to pluck one of His most beautiful flowers from His flower garden of life to provide a sweet smelling fragrance in his heavenly abode.

The Missionary Circle of the National Church Of God In Christ, as well as the Central Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Ohio has lost one of its most precious jewels and hearts all over this country have been saddened at this great loss for Evangelist Moore has touched the lives of so many people in one way or another. She worked devotedly, faithfully, and whole heartily in whatever she did. Dedicated to the Lord for the salvation of souls, she conducted revivals in many area of the United States. She served faithfully in the International Women's Department for some 50 years under the late international supervisor, Mother Lillian Brooks Coffey, the late Mother Annie L. Bailey and the present general supervisor, Mother Mattie McGlothen, who has expressed her tremendous loss.

Mother Moore was an ardent and conscientious worker in Ohio, more specifically, the central jurisdiction of the Church of God in Christ. The sudden impact of her passing has already been felt; her usual seat in the temple is vacant and her contralto voice singing the praises of the Lord has been silenced.

God never does a thing that is wrong, we do bow our heads in humble submission to God's perfect will, and always have her image in our hearts and minds.

# HAVE YOU GOT IT, LIKE YOU STARTED?

Remember when you first got saved,
And left the world behind.
You started down this narrow way
With one thought on your mind.

To serve the Lord and do His will
Was your great desire
Giving Him the glory and praise
You never seem to tire.

But have you got slack along the way
And just can't find the time
To read your Bible, fast and pray
And leave other things behind.

Do you still put the Lord first?
In everything you do,
Or are you so busy
You're pushing Him, in the background too?

Have you got it like you started?
And are you keeping it, like you should
Or have you misplaced it and is it buried deep,
Where its not doing any good.

Lets go back to the Altar.
And I think we'll find
Everything we started with,
If we just leave SELF behind.

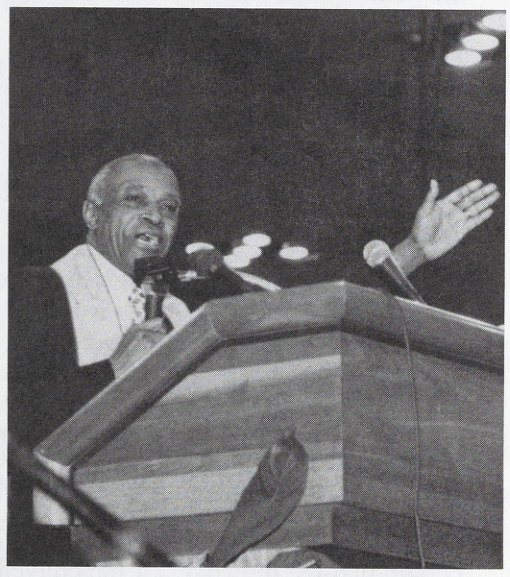
Cherry Love

## THE 86TH CONVOCATION
## NOVEMBER 9–15, 1993

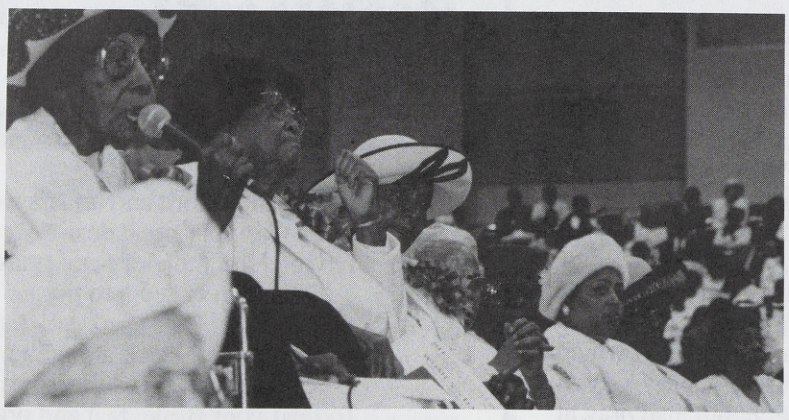
# THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

*President Bill Clinton greets the delegates in Mason Temple.*

*After an enthusiastic greeting President Clinton stands with the leadership. L to R... Bishops Brooks, Jones, Owens, Mr. Clinton, Presiding Bishop Ford and Bishop Anderson.*

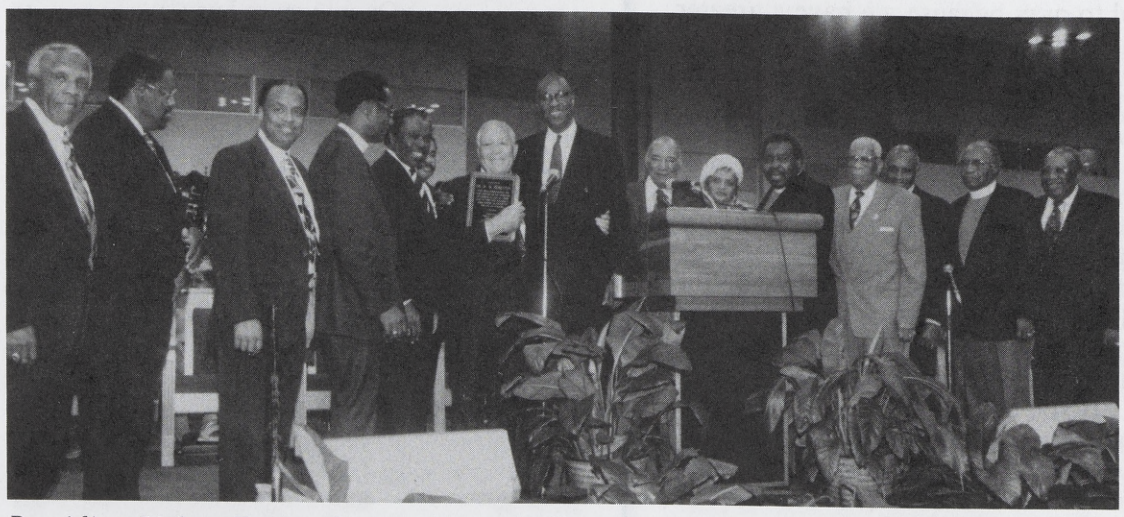


*Bishop O. T. Jones preached that Christ has made us free.*

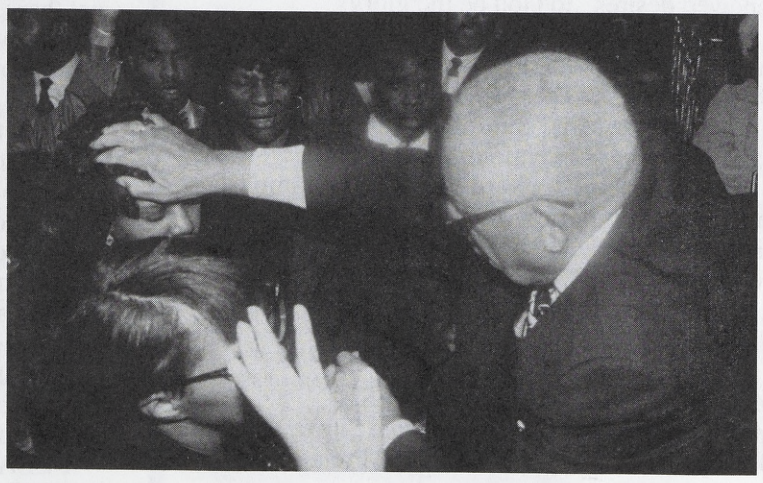


*Dr. Mattie McGlothen, Supervisor of Women addresses the fine women's day gathering. L to R Supervisors McGlothen, Crouch, Mother Ford, Supervisors Bell, Rivers, Lewis and Young.*

*Chairman of the Board of Bishops, Bishop J.H. Sherman and staff discuss the coming Annual Conference of Bishops. That meeting will be conducted in January, 1994.*



*Presiding Bishop Ford welcomes Mayor W.W. Herenton of Memphis. Also in the photo is Mr. Walker, president of Universal Life Insurance.*



*Bishop Ford anointed the saints and prayed for their needs.*

CONTINUED FROM LAST EDITION ARTICLE

BY BRO. AND SIS. DUPREE

# DOCUMENTING RELIGIOUS ACTIVITY IN NONRELIGIOUS REPOSITORIES

## GATHERING MATERIALS FROM PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

The first private collection I visited was that of Bishop Ithiel Clemmon in Greensboro, North Carolina in 1983. I was able to locate old Whole Truth Newspapers published by the Church Of God In Christ in Memphis. Whole Truth Newspaper gives researchers a broad overview of the movement from the early 1900's to present. I gathered booklets and pamphlets about the black Pentecostal movement in North Carolina and surrounding states. My methods included interviewing individuals who were active in the early black Pentecostal church. In addition, I searched the local Greensboro newspaper for obituaries of church leaders and relevant lay people and for articles concerning church growth in the area. I visited radio stations that aired Holiness- Pentecostal services. Staff people there provided me with the names of church members who were elected city officials.

The second private collection gave me a more international look at the Pentecostal movement and the Church Of God In Christ. Mother Rosa Berry from Chicago has spent 54 years as a traveling missionary. She shared brochures, pamphlets, tracts, pictures, and so on from her travels in Africa, Europe, Canada, the Virgin Islands, and the United States. Mother Berry granted me an interview and then referred me to other people for further information. When the interview was over, she gave me grocery bags full of materials including postcards and money collection envelopes. The information was invaluable and her friendly attitude encouraged me to continue.

In April 1984, a pastor in Philadelphia allowed me to examine boxes of important church memorabilia, such as paper fans commemorating church leaders, old calendars, newspaper articles, tracts, booklets, magazine articles, pictures, and maps with church locations. The collection contained a wealth of historical information that would require a tremendous investment of research efforts to thoroughly investigate. Unfortunately, because of time constraints, I was unable to complete the task during that one visit.

I received the largest collection of materials, which centered around the "oneness" doctrine, from Robert McGoings of Baltimore. Mr. McGoings's materials covered the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World, the Church of Our Lord Christ of the Apostolic Faith, the United Church of Jesus Christ(Apostolic), and Bible Way Churches of Our Lord Jesus Christ Worldwide, Inc. The materials were mailed to me over an eight-month period. Mr. McGoings sent pictures, postcards, Christmas cards, cassette tapes, hymn books, newspaper and magazine articles, convocation booklets, church business minutes, information on church Bible schools and day-care centers, and mission newsletters.

The United Holy Church of America was founded in May 1886. It is the oldest recorded black Holiness church in the United States. In December 1985, I spent two days with Dr. William C. Turner, a professor at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. Dr. Turner has an excellent collection of documents concerning the early years of the United Holy Church of America. The diaries of Bishop H. L. Fisher, a leader of the organization from the early 1920s until his death, are priceless. One can see the gradual emergence of the church through his diaries. For two days, three people constantly used the copy machine to duplicate all this material for the collection.

## GATHERING MATERIALS FROM COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

I spent four days at Howard University in Washington, D.C., including one day at the Moorland Spingarn Research Center Collection on Howard's campus. The Church of Christ (Holiness) U.S.A. magazine entitled Truth Messenger was available for the early 1940s. Issues were photocopied and mailed to me. I didn't find other denominations represented. There were a few articles from other magazines. Howard's outstanding collection of black newspapers was helpful, but I didn't have the time to research them. Hence, the newspapers are not indexed.

I gathered a great deal of material at the Florida A & M University black archives in Tallahassee, Florida. The curator directed me to obituaries of Holiness-Pentecostal leaders in Florida. There were also church histories and newspaper articles on the denominations in the Tallahassee area. In addition to the materials available at the archives, I discovered contact people of various denominations throughout the state. Also, I found long-playing albums and sheet music for gospel music, and program bulletins from various gospel artists who had appeared in Florida.

The interlibrary loans system staff at Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee gathered materials there for me. I borrowed several dissertations from the 1930s and 1940s. I wish to visit Fisk, however, so that I can spend time in the "special Negro collection." This collection will help fill gaps in the history of the South, especially of Tennessee. I understand that Fisk has denominational periodicals, newspapers, and annual conference reports.

In April 1984, my husband and I visited the Burgess- Carpenter collection at Columbia University to check for dissertations from the 1940s. The Federal Writer's Project, from the early 1940s, was the best source of information on black Holiness-Pentecostal churches in the United States at that time. Columbia also has The United States Census of Religious Bodies for 1906, 1916, 1926, 1936, and so on. In the census I located many denominations under "Pentecostal assemblies" and some under "miscellaneous denominations." Each entry gave the name, statistics, history, doctrine, organization, and work for each church. We spent approximately 12 hours photocopying the sections in the United States Census of Religious Bodies and the Work Project Administration (WPA) reports.

## GATHERING MATERIALS FROM GOVERNMENT LIBRARIES

The National Archives in Washington, D.C. gave me many leads to sources of information. Previous correspondence to Debra Newman, who holds the title of African-American Archivist, had alerted the staff to my visits and the nature of my project. This prior notification saved me much valuable time because the materials I needed to research were prepared for me when I arrived.

The National Archives film library had a fire in the early 1980s and many of the old religious films were destroyed. Nevertheless I was able to find the citations and brief annotations in the card catalog. Since then, I have tried unsuccessfully to locate copies of these films.

The military archivist at the National Archives referred me to Fred Pernell, who holds the title of African American military archivist at the Military Research Center in Suitland, Maryland. I spent a day there researching military records for names of leaders of church organization. The materials gathered were declassified and cleared: they were then mailed to me about three weeks after I returned home. The Library of Congress offered a variety of leads and information. I received a pass so that I could explore the stacks. I discovered items from several white Holiness- Pentecostal organizations, including the Church Of God in Anderson, Indiana and the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel. All materials gathered were photocopied.

The State Library of Florida provided the work Project Administration reports for the state by individual counties. For each county I was able to locate the following information on Holiness-Pentecostal churches: attendance records, building costs, lists of activities, contact people, and in some cases, group headquarters. My study of the reports revealed both the growth and concentration patterns of the groups. This was an excellent way to cover the 1940s.

The state of New Jersey permitted me to receive WPA reports on religion by county through interlibrary loans. Each mailing from the state library consisted of no more than six WPA reports. In three months all volumes were checked.

The Center for Research Libraries (CRL), located on the University of Chicago's campus, was helpful. I spent a week at the center, where I researched black newspapers for information on various denominations in the United States. Also, early runs of many newspapers were available at the center. Many of the old newspapers were in bundles by three- month periods; however, they had not been put on microfilm. I research obituary sections, religious news, entertainment columns for mentions of gospel music, building construction reports for new churches, society sections for marriage announcements, and advertising for announcements of church meetings and convocations. I researched the Kansas City Call, the Indianapolis Recorder, and other newspapers that I could not find on microfilm or that could not be mailed by interlibrary loans. More than 800 articles were copied from the old newspapers, and the microfilm, when available, was mailed so that I could photocopy it at home. I also found a few relevant colleges and universities mostly white Holiness Pentecostal represented in the college catalog collections.

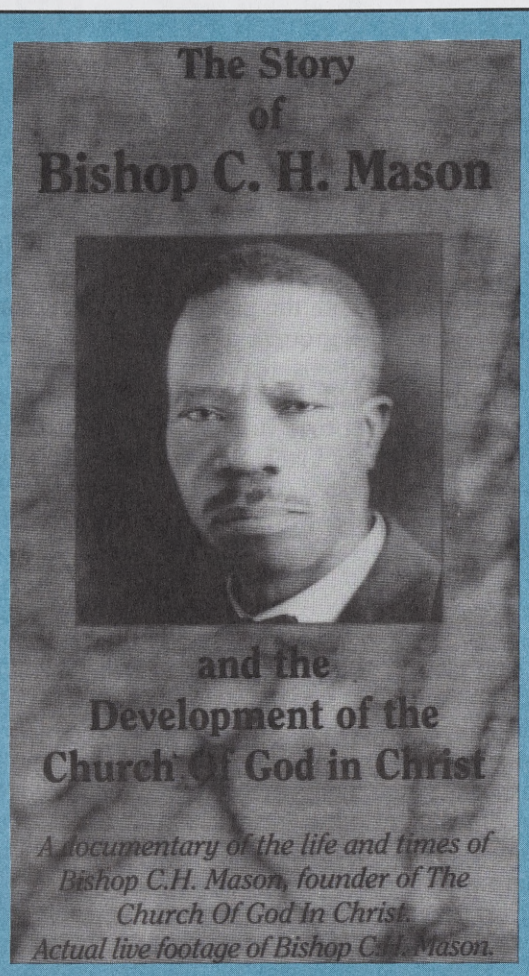
## GATHERING MATERIALS FROM PUBLIC LIBRARIES

I will briefly discuss three outstanding public libraries. First, the Martin Luther King Public Library in Washington, D.C. At this library, I explored the clipping file and found several folders on black Pentecostal churches in the Washington area. Many of the clippings were from local newspapers and church programs. I found several religious books related to the Holiness-Pentecostal movement, which I had previously been unable to locate.

Second, the Carter G. Woodson Public Library in Chicago. I spent one day at this library's Vivian Harsh collection. I located a history of the Church of the Living God; the founder was a woman, Bishop Mageline Tate, who started the church in 1903. The history, which mainly covered the 1920s to the early 1970s, contained many pictures and also provided locations of churches and leaders. The curator directed me to the reports on religion. There, under the heading of storefront churches, I was able to find listings of several Illinois Holiness churches. I was able to see the original reports filed in acid-free boxes. Mr. Cameron allowed me to photocopy the original reports since they were in good condition. (In other repositories I was able to photocopy only a copy of a copy.) Some reports were narratives of the lives of church members, including stories of the children and other relatives who lived in the home as well as relatives who were coming from the south to live in the Chicago area. Some of the reports traced the daily routines of leaders, stating their work habits, visitations to the sick, prayer time, programs to help the community, and jail ministries.

Third, the New York City Public Library. I spent two days at the Schomburg Center there. Again, because the library was notified ahead of time, materials were awaiting me when I arrived. The WPA reports of churches were valuable. I discovered the existence of many additional Pentecostal churches, along with information concerning their activities. I was able to get these reports on microfilm through the interlibrary loan system.

# THE WHOLE TRUTH

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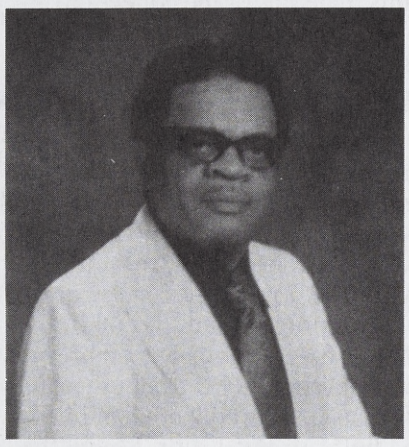
## IN LOVING MEMORY OF ELDER ROBERT M. ALEXANDER



Robert M. Alexander was born August 22, 1924 in Marshall, Missouri, to William and Josephine Alexander. He received his education at Lincoln High School in Fayette, Missouri. From a child he was religiously inclined, and at the age of 17, he was appointed over a district known as the District of Y.P.W.W. President of the Marshall District in Western, Missouri. In 1945 he became a licensed minister under Bishop V.M. Barker, and was ordained the same year by Overseer Williams. Not only did he serve Nebraska as State Y.P.W.W. President and State Sunday School Superintendent, Elder Alexander traveled through twenty-eight states utilizing his many talents as a gospel teacher, preacher and musician. He was well known in the Church Of God In Christ serving as Indiana's State Y.P.W.W. President and State Secretary. Mother Robinson left the 2864 Corby St. residence to Ida Baker, her daughter. Ida Baker left Elder Robert Alexander the house as her foster son. He administered the estate of Ida Baker, and took care of her up until her demise. He was also faithful in taking care of Mother Alberta McKenzie until her death. Elder Alexander was one of the only residents in Omaha, who kept and maintained the history of the old pioneers. He would also help Mother Baker in the Home and Foreign Mission to keep her secretarial books once her health was in abatement. Elder Alexander worked diligently with Mother Coffey to purchase new furniture and the head stone for Mother Lizzie Robinson which was financed by the Women's Department located her in Omaha, Nebraska. For forty-one years he served as a delegate for the International Annual Holy Convocation, and had never missed one convocation. He was joined in holy matrimony to the late Dorothy White in 1950.

He leaves to mourn, his son, Robert E. Alexander; three daughters, Brenda L. Alexander, Cynthia L. Abrams, Carol Ann O'Dell; two brothers, Leroy Alexander, Al Alexander; one sister, Ruby M. Ransom; two sisters-in-laws, eight grand- children, nieces, nephews and a host of friends.

## RECOGNITION FOR RELIGIOUS CONTRIBUTION

*Dr. C. C. Owens makes presentation to Pastor Joseph W. Lewis.*

On Sunday, June 27, 1993 before a faithful congregation, Dr. C.C. Owens, President of the Religious Workers Guild, Inc. presented Pastor Joseph W. Lewis of the Pentecostal Church Of God In Christ located at Hoffman #C-10 St. Thomas, Virgin Islands with it's "Special Achievement Award". This award recognized and honored Pastor Lewis for his Outstanding Religious Contributions.

Pastor Lewis, a dedicated leader and hard worker is actively involved in the ministry for over thirty three years. He founded and built the first Pentecostal Church Of God In Christ in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands where he is the pastor for the past twenty three years.

The saints at Pentecostal COGIC join in saying a special "thank you" to Dr. C.C. Owens and the Religious Workers Guild, Inc. also to Pastor Joseph W. Lewis for his untiring efforts and dedication.

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